

SITUATION REPORT NO. 11
INCIDENT NO. 95-04
DATE: May 12, 1995 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: 1995 Spring Flood.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: A farmer from Emmons County died from a farm accident related to muddy field conditions.
3. DAMAGE: Counties and cities throughout central and eastern North Dakota are reporting the effects of the rainfall received May 5-9, 1995. Common problems are transportation systems becoming impassable due to muddy conditions, soft roadbeds, broken pavement, and inundation; failed private and municipal sewage systems; contaminated wells; and basement seepage. Travel for rural residents, school buses, farm service vehicles such as milk trucks, mail delivery vehicles, and emergency service vehicles has been seriously impacted.

On May 10 and 11, 1995, a state and local initial damage assessment was conducted in 14 additional counties. \$4.5 million dollars in damages to non-FAS county and township roads as well as damages to city infrastructure facilities were identified. The counties included in this assessment were: Barnes, Dickey, Eddy, Foster, Kidder, Lamoure, McHenry, McIntosh, Pembina, Pierce, Ransom, Sheridan, Stutsman, and Wells.

Five additional counties, Logan, McLean, Sargent, Sioux, and Ward have indicated significant damages. Initial assessments are being scheduled. Many sites are inundated.

The level of Devils Lake is 1434.46 feet msl as of May 12, 1995. The last recorded date the lake was at this level was in 1883. The lake's highest recorded level was 1438.4 msl in 1863.

The city of Lawton's emergency protective dike is about 6" above the surface of

the water threatening the city from the south.

Sargent County is being affected by overland flooding due to the heavy rain. Cogswell, Foreman, and Havanna all have flood waters entering the cities causing problems to sewage systems and homes.

Wells County officials reported the high water table is preventing burials. Grave digging is not possible or is very expensive because the graves are filling with water.

Water is over the roadways of ND 20 south of Devils Lake, ND 19 west of Devils Lake, ND 56 south of Gackle in Logan County, and ND 56 south of Kulm in LaMoure County.

Thirty people on the Fort Totten Sioux Indian Reservation were isolated due to road inundation. Three of these people require medical care, two have chronic health conditions and one is pregnant.

The agricultural impact has increased with the latest rainfall. Reports indicate the most seriously affected area is eastern and central North Dakota especially Griggs, Nelson, Ramsey, and Steele Counties. There are large areas of land that cannot be planted due to saturated soil conditions and inundation. It is also being reported that field access is limited because of road conditions. Mortality of young livestock has been higher than average because of the cool, wet weather conditions.

Burlington Northern Railroad officials report 72 miles of railroad line between Lakota and Sarles is closed down. A large body of water caused by overland flooding has developed about 1 mile north of Lakota. Wave action has eroded about 200 feet of grade even with the end of the railroad ties. Approximately 1,200 feet of grade is at risk. In the vicinity of Lawton, on the same line, the tracks are covered with 2 1/2" of water. Burlington Northern Railroad raised these tracks by 1 foot in 1993/94.

"Old Settler Days", which serves as the beginning of the summer Devils Lake tourist season, has been canceled because of flooding of facilities. This activity normally has 14,000 participants and contributes thousands of dollars to the Devils Lake region economy.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous report.

STATE: No change from previous report.

FEDERAL: No change from previous report.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The American Red Cross is providing transient

housing for 30 individuals. They are also providing emergency housing for a family whose home by Devils Lake is flooded.

The Fort Totten Fire Department is clearing debris from ND Highway 20.

Devils Lake Search and Rescue is activated to deal with problems associated with high lake levels. On Sunday, May 7, 1995 they rescued 3 people involved in a boating incident on Devils Lake.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Congressman Pomeroy has released information to the news media stating that the Governor's request for a Major Presidential Disaster Declaration submitted May 1, 1995 has been approved by the White House staff and is awaiting President Clinton's official signature. State officials have not yet been officially notified of this action.

Governor Schafer has activated the North Dakota Army National Guard to provide assistance to Minnewaukan City officials to maintain the integrity of the sewage lagoon. The plan is to raise the lagoon berms by approximately 3 feet.

On May 10 & 11, 8 ND Division of Emergency Management staff members were dispatched to 14 counties to conduct a state and local initial damage assessment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are providing technical assistance to the ND Army National Guard on the Minnewaukan sewage lagoon project.

The Ramsey County Water Board is attempting to get easements to construct a drain to remove the water threatening the City of Lawton.

ND Department of Transportation is closing ND Highway 20 south of Devils Lake at 7:00 p.m. tonight until further notice.

As of May 11, 1995, officials from 29 counties, 5 cities, and 2 Tribal Councils have issued Emergency or Disaster declarations. Since May 2, 1995, County Commissions from Dickey, Eddy, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McIntosh, Ramsey, Sargent, Sioux, and Wells Counties have issued Emergency or Disaster Declarations.

ND Game and Fish Department has completed the work on the Towers and Creel Bay boat ramps. The ND Army National Guard is assisting them with the East Bay boat ramp.

The ND Army National Guard's pumping project in Pembina County is completed and the pumps are being moved to Camp Gilbert C. Grafton at Devils Lake.

Devils Lake Sioux Tribe officials conducted a survey of 150 homes on the

reservation to determine the extent of the flood problems.

FEMA Region VIII and North Dakota Flood Insurance personnel are sponsoring a meeting with Devils Lake region insurance agents and a meeting with the public next week.

The Consolidated Farm Service Agency (CFSA) is allowing farmers/ranchers to put cow/calf pairs on CRP land until May 20, 1995. County CFSA Boards must approve this action for their county. The purpose is to allow the cattle to be moved to dry ground to decrease young livestock mortality.

The National Weather Service, in coordination with the ND Division of Emergency Management is including the lake level of Devils Lake in the daily river reading report.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous report.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous report.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The National Weather Service issued a special weather statement forecasting a major spring storm bringing northeast winds of 25 to 40 mph and significant rainfall to much of North Dakota Friday night through Saturday night. Rainfall totals by Sunday morning could be as high as 1 to 2 inches in the southern half of the state. Because of saturated soil conditions, this additional rainfall could push some rivers above flood stage as the rivers are already running high due to earlier rain events. The overland flooding situation will become more serious.

Signed _____
Douglas C. Friez
State Director